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**HALIFAX HEROES**

## THE GIFT OF GIVING

**Instead of accepting presents, this Halifax girl raises funds for charity every year on her birthday**

metroNEWS



JEFF HARPER/METRO

## To be or not to be out of the rain, that is the question

SHAKESPEARE BY THE SEA

**Theatre troupe may  
have indoor space  
back next summer**



**Zane  
Woodford**  
Metro | Halifax

After three seasons with no rain venue, Shakespeare By the Sea could be back indoors next summer.

A report headed to Halifax regional council on Tuesday recommends allowing the theatre company to once again stage performances inside its Park Place Theatre after a fire in 2014 damaged the building and inspections afterwards found it wasn't up to code for public use.

The company's performances are always scheduled to happen outdoors at the Cambridge Battery in Point Pleasant Park. Before the fire, they used the theatre for rain days. Since then, it's either been good weather, or no show.

Co-creative director Jesse MacLean said the company lost 13 shows to bad weather last summer, and 18 the year before.

"It's been pretty large actually in terms

of the loss of audience and revenue," he said.

MacLean said getting the indoor space back would allow the company to regain the momentum it's lost since the fire.

"Just to have some consistency and to have the audience have confidence that there's actually going to be a show regardless, rain or shine, for us is enormous," he said.

In 2015, council approved funding for repairs for the building to be used as office, storage and rehearsal space. Since then, Shakespeare by the Sea has made further improvements to the building to make it compliant for public use, including installing a new exterior door and improving access to the washroom.

The roof still needs to be repaired, but the company has asked for time to do a feasibility study on tearing the building down instead and starting from scratch.

That, MacLean said, would allow the company to recreate the "magical experience" the audience gets outdoors.

"You want people to have a really nice experience regardless if you're sitting outside under the stars, or sitting in a real theatre," he said. "We just really hope to be able to offer that."

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## CRIME

### Teen boy charged in stabbing

A man is in hospital in stable condition after being stabbed multiple times.

The RCMP say the incident happened in the community of Lakeville near Kentville around 10 a.m. Saturday.

The victim, 30, was stabbed multiple times by a 17-year-old boy, according to a RCMP release.

The suspect and victim are known to one another, with the 17-year-old arrested outside a Lakeville residence after the incident. No other details have been provided. METRO



Police say the adult victim and accused are known to one another. METRO FILE

## CORRECTION

Metro's story "'Donair Decks' take on Halifax" on Page 6 of the Dec. 9 edition incorrectly identified the owners of CUZ Brand Skateboards. They are Logan Mulhern and Jon Sparkes. Metro regrets this error.

# 'Equity and equality'

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

### Nova Scotia honours those who promote human rights



Alex Quon  
For Metro | Halifax

Six of the province's most outstanding citizens and groups have been recognized for their work in promoting human rights, social justice and advocacy.

Marking the 66th United Nations' International Hu-

man Rights Day on Saturday, the event saw dignitaries and recipients from across the province gather in Halifax's Central Library to celebrate this year's theme — "Stand up for someone's rights today!"

"This year's awards recipients have absolutely answered that call to action," said Christine Hanson, Director and CEO of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission at the ceremony. "Nova Scotia is most definitely a better place because of them."

El Jones, Halifax's former poet laureate, was one of the three recipients for the Burnley Allan "Rocky" Jones award for individual achievement. Her work as an activist, promoting



**It takes real men and women to show leadership.**

Raymond G. Tynes

and calling for the protection of human rights for prisoners, prompted the award.

"Sometimes people think that if you're doing work with prisoners you're doing something wrong," Jones said. "For the Human Rights Commission to acknowledge this work is to also acknowledge those people."

Samuel Gegan, a Grade 9 stu-

dent at Gorsebrook Junior High, received the Human Rights Commission's Youth Award for his work as an LGBTQ advocate inside of his school and throughout the community.

"I couldn't have done this without my parents," he said. "Thanks to my guidance counsellor who nominated me for this."

Two organizations also received awards on Saturday. The Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS) won for its instrumental work in resettling more than 1,100 Syrian refugees throughout the province during the past year.

Mount Saint Vincent University's Alexa McDonough Insti-

tute for Women, Gender and Social Justice won for their annual Girls' Conference, which allows young women to learn about human rights and social justice issues in a safe environment.

Dr. David Leitch and Raymond G. Tynes were the other recipients for individual achievement.

Leitch won for his work improving access to education for people with disabilities while Tynes was recognized for his push to eliminate racism and discrimination.

"It takes real men and women to show leadership," Tynes said while accepting his award. "Embrace equity and equality."

## HOLIDAYS SANTA CLAUS COMES TO HALIFAX

Katie Smith and 16-month-old Caleb Smith had a visit with the big guy on Sunday. Santa visited the Historic Properties as part of The Halifax Lights Holiday Market. JEFF HARPER/METRO



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# Program ramps up once again

## COMMUNITY WORK

**Project back to ensure local buildings are accessible to all**



**Alex Quon**  
For Metro | Halifax

A joint program between the business community, Mayor Mike Savage and the city's youth aims to make Halifax accessible to everyone.

All three sectors came together Saturday to produce ramps that help those with mobility issues and wheelchairs get into buildings more easily.

Launched by Savage's office in 2015, the Halifax Community Ramp Project is back for another year to build portable ramps and offer them to business throughout the Halifax Regional Municipality for free.

"We have to do more to be more accessible for people with all disabilities, mobility being one of them," said Savage.

"This is a relatively small thing that we found makes a difference."

This year saw six members of Future Roots, a social en-

terprise for youth in Halifax's north end, build ramps under the supervision of carpenters from Mill-Right Woodworking Inc.

For Future Roots co-founder DeRico Symonds, events like these are beneficial for everyone.

His organization's efforts go to a good cause, and his group's members learn valuable skills.

"This is about going to places you may not have ever been, about meeting new people and giving context to a relationship you might not have thought about," said Symonds.

"When our youth go out into the work world and have to find a job, they'll have employment skills."

But Symonds stresses the youths in his organization aren't volunteers. They get paid as employees.

Gerry Post, who uses a wheelchair, says the project doesn't just give Future Roots members woodworking and technical skills but also imparts them with knowledge of how it is to live as someone with a disability — something he calls an accessibility lens.

"A lot of people don't realize that there are all these barriers that exist when you're in a wheelchair," Post said.

"It's so important that they learn the challenges we face in the community."

According to the Savage, any business in the HRM that is interested in receiving a ramp can contact their local business commission, or his office.



Above: Co-founder DeRico Symonds wants the members of his organization to have skills they can take into the future.

Left: Future Roots member Kaleigh Morrissey and the organizations co-founder DeRico Symonds put the finishing touches on an accessibility ramp.

ALEXANDER QUON/FOR METRO



**We have to do more to be more accessible for people with all disabilities. This is a relatively small thing that we found makes a difference.** Mayor Mike Savage

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# **HALIFAX HEROES** Ordinary people doing extraordinary things



Anika Fraser, pictured here at her house on Sunday, is a Grade 6 student who actively raises funds for endangered animals, cancer research and other charitable causes. JEFF HARPER/METRO

## 'I want to help make a difference'

### KINDNESS

#### Anika Fraser, 11, gives up birthday gifts for charity



**Yvette d'Entremont**  
Metro | Halifax

Anika Fraser is only 11, but that hasn't stopped her from committing to make a difference in the world.

"Anika is one of the most thoughtful people that I know. She's very caring and has a huge heart and is always thinking of others," said her mom, Charlene

Currie.

"I believe her dad (Scott Fraser) nominated her because he understands how much effort she has put in and would like her to know it's recognized and we're all proud of her."

Since Grade Primary, Anika has asked friends to bring donations to her October birthday parties instead of gifts.

The Grade 6 student from William King Elementary in Herring Cove has been able to donate more than \$1,000 in financial contributions to the SPCA. This is in addition to items like cat litter and pet food.

One year she and her friends raised enough to sponsor a kennel for one year, giving them the honour of a tag above a kennel that proclaimed 'sponsored by

Anika and friends.'

While most donations over the years have been to the SPCA or to support endangered animals, she raised funds for brain cancer research on one birthday.

This was a way for her to honour her grandmother who died from the disease.



**When I got gifts I usually didn't play with them or use them.**

Anika Fraser

"I do these things to give back to others and to help make the world better," she said matter-of-factly.

"When I gave to the cancer society (for brain research), the girl told me that I was helping them find new ways to cure cancer."

One year Anika raised enough to adopt 12 narwhals after learning in school that they were facing the threat of extinction.

Last year she raised money for Canadian sea turtles, and this October she "adopted" a polar bear, beluga whale and a sea otter through the Canadian

Wildlife Federation.

"I love animals and I didn't need as much gifts because when I got gifts I usually didn't play with them or use them," she said when asked why she didn't ask for presents.

"So there was no point."

For her next birthday, she's already planning to find a way to help the Blanding's turtle, an endangered species in Nova Scotia.

She has already decided she wants to be a marine biologist when she grows up.

"There's lots of reasons, but I want to learn more about sharks," she said.

Her mother said Anika's desire to help is never ending. As soon as she hears about something relating to animals or people in need, or the environment, she wants to act.

Last year during her school's spring fair, she and her friends made information posters and sold donated seed packets of local bee-friendly plant species to help raise awareness about the plight of honeybees.

"I was looking at my cereal box, Honeynut Cheerios, and they said there might not be any more (bees) and there won't be honey and so I searched up on it and I wrote down all kinds of stuff," she recalled.

"I asked my friends if they wanted to help ... I always wanted to do a game there (at the spring fair) so I did this instead."

Anika is already planning to become a more hands-on volunteer as soon as she's able.

"I will help out at the SPCA when I'm old enough," she said excitedly.

"I'll help feed the cats and walk the dogs and do anything ... I keep doing this because I want to give animals a home and I want to help make a difference for the world."

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# Olympian Ellie Black inspires next generation

## ROLE MODELS

### Gymnast stops by athletics academy for surprise visit

When 9-year-old Ellie-Mae Rayner walked into the gymnastics academy, she didn't know she would be meeting one of her idols.

The Enfield girl's parents surprised her with a visit to the Olympus Gymnastics Academy on Saturday, where Olympian Ellie Black was visiting.

Like many children who met Black, it was a thrill.

"Since she saw her in the Rio Olympics, she really idolizes Ellie Black. She inspires her a lot to move on and achieve more and more," said Peter Rayner.

The family will be traveling to the Canada Games Centre in February to watch Black in action.

Black made history at the 2016 Summer Olympics. The 21-year-old Halifax-based gymnast placed fifth in the women's individual all-around competition — the highest place finish for a Canadian gymnast.

Black spent much of the Dec. 10 event meeting her fans, signing autographs and posing for photos. She said meeting with her young fans and inspiring them to reach for the stars is rewarding.

"That's one of the reasons I love doing the sport that I'm doing is to hopefully inspire younger athletes, younger kids to find something that they're passionate about and



Whether it was taking selfies or parents snapping photos with cellphones, Black was likely the most photographed person in Windsor on Saturday. CAROLE MORRIS-UNDERHILL/TC MEDIA



**She inspires me as well. I love it when a young woman does well.**

Windsor Mayor Anna Allen

to go for their dreams," said Black. "It doesn't really matter where you come from. As long as you have those goals and you work hard, you can achieve your dreams."

Windsor Mayor Anna Allen said Black serves as an



Mayor Anna Allen and Olympus Gymnastics Academy founder Hugh Smith are all smiles as they stand with the 21-year-old athlete. CAROLE MORRIS-UNDERHILL/TC MEDIA

## 5th place

Ellie Black made history when she placed 5th in the Rio Olympics women's individual all-around competition — the best ever for a Canadian.

inspiration not only to young athletes, but to everyone.

"She inspires me as well. I love it when a young woman does well," said Allen after meeting Black.

Hugh Smith, the founder of Olympus Gymnastics, is friends with Black and invited her to the club's fall session wrap up party. They both train at the Halifax Alta Gymnastics Club.

"I thought why not bring Ellie Black down — an Olympian — and just inspire the kids to keep going, to keep practising and just give them that message of keep working hard and keep following your dreams," said Smith.

"That's what we like to do here at Olympus — find the potential in the kids and help them work towards their goals."

He said gymnastics is a sport that any child can participate in.

"It's known as a foundation sport, which is basically teaching them all the fundamentals that they can use for any other sports that they may pursue in the future or if they like gymnastics, to continue with," said Smith. "It's a sport for every kid. I encourage all of the parents to look into the club."

TC MEDIA

## HOLIDAYS

### Grandma invites strangers to dinner

A grandmother in Nova Scotia has invited nine strangers to her dinner table this Christmas for a festive get together for those who can't spend the holidays with their families.

Patty McGill worried that most of her homemade Yuletide delicacies would go to waste this season with her children and grandchildren hundreds of kilometres away while she looks after her farm in the Lunenburg area.

McGill decided on a whim to share her turkey dinner with six people she had never met. She posted an invitation on social media and the guest list soon grew as word spread about her gathering for those who have nowhere to go for the holidays.

According to McGill, the guests include a falconer from British Columbia, a retired medical writer who worked in the United States and the mother of an infant who recently split with a man who she moved to the province to be with.

Ingredients for the meal will be supplied by a local grocer and McGill has been receiving cheques from people who have been touched by her generous holiday spirit.

McGill is asking that cellphones be left in a basket at the door, so people can engage with each other rather than their screens.

She said she hopes the gathering will mark the start of a "new tradition" that embodies what the holidays are truly about — being together, loving thy neighbour and remembering "everybody's family."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The 8,000 square-foot event area at the Sands at Salter will be getting upgrades as well — with seating for over 250 people. CONTRIBUTED

# Waterfront gets facelift

## DEVELOPMENT

### Public asked to help shape the 'vision' of seasonal space



Haley Ryan  
Metro | Halifax

New plans show an updated vendor space, seating, entertainment area, and more for the Halifax waterfront.

According to a release, Waterfront Development put out a request for proposals on Friday for those interested in vendor opportunities in the new location, which includes 12 existing buildings and 10 sites for new ones. Licences are for five years.

The old vendor space stretched from the ferry terminal to the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, and included kiosks for BeaverTails, ice cream and tourist attractions.

That area is being replaced by the upcoming Queen's Marque development project. Public engagement sessions around the development helped "shape the vision" for the new seasonal vendor

space, the release said.

The new vendor space is located just south of The Wave between Sackville and Salter streets, along the Halifax Harbourwalk.

The 20,000 square feet of public space includes the Sands at Salter, an 8,000 square-foot event area with seating for more than 250 people, and a stage for performances and festivals.

"The focus is, first, on creating a place where locals want to be, and, then, welcoming visitors to experience authentic Nova Scotia at its best," Jennifer Angel, acting president and CEO of Waterfront Development, said in a release.

Public washrooms, including two accessible washrooms, new seating, lighting and landscaping are also planned.

Seasonal vendors are expected to open mid-June with a grand opening planned, the release said, but in the meantime opportunities for market-style vending in the new location will be available this winter.

The request for proposals is available on the Nova Scotia Tenders website.

One for waterfront marine business opportunities is also available online. Both close Jan. 17, 2017.

**The focus is, first, on creating a place where locals want to be.**

Jennifer Angel

## TRANSPORTATION

# Overnight parking rules in effect this week

It's that time of year again to start hunting for off-street parking.

With a dusting of snow Friday morning and a major snowfall expected Monday, the municipality announced the overnight parking ban will take effect this Thursday Dec. 15, and continue until March 31.

As in previous years, the ban will be enforced between 1 to 6 a.m. during declared snow and ice events and certain clearing

operations.

Residents are encouraged to plan ahead when snow is in the forecast, the release said, and find off-street parking for when the ban is enforced.

Police will also ticket any vehicles obstructing sidewalk clearing, like those hanging out of a driveway or parked on the sidewalk since they become a dangerous obstacle for crews, HRM said. HALEY RYAN/METRO HALIFAX

## + HAVE A PLAN FOR THE BAN

Anyone can keep up to date with the overnight parking ban by signing up for automated notifications. Register online at [halifax.ca/snow/parkingban/notifications.php](http://halifax.ca/snow/parkingban/notifications.php), call 311 or email [contact@halifax.ca](mailto:contact@halifax.ca)

Subscribers will receive alerts by phone, email, and/or text message when the ban is in effect and again when it is lifted. Those who received those notifications last winter will continue to receive the service this year.

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# Challenges remain for refugees

ANNIVERSARY

## Still work to do helping Syrians a year after their arrival

Noura Alissa says she's very grateful for the warm welcome she's received in Canada, but admits the year since she arrived in Montreal from Syria has been more difficult than she expected.

"Trying to find a job while learning French has been difficult, but I am trying," the 25-year-old Syrian refugee said in English in an interview Sunday. She said the warm welcome she's received from Canadians has helped ease the transition. It has been a year since Canada welcomed the first group of Syrians that the government flew out of refugee camps, and both political leaders and refugees marked the occasion over the weekend with a mixture of pride and an acknowledgment of the challenges that remain.

Immigration Minister John McCallum said he would never forget joining Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and other cabinet ministers at Toronto's Pearson airport on Dec. 10, 2015 to greet the first plane load of refugees.

"At a time when many countries closed their doors to refu-

gees, we in Canada said 'come on in, you're welcome,'" he said at an event in Montreal on Sunday to mark the anniversary.

Prime Minister Trudeau also noted the anniversary on Twitter over the weekend and federal Health Minister Jane Philpott, who also joined Trudeau in welcoming the first plane load, noted the fond memories she had of that night in a tweet posted Saturday.

McCallum and other political leaders at the Montreal event acknowledged there are still challenges to face.

Despite the arrival of more than 36,000 refugees since Nov. 2015, he noted many newcomers were still waiting to be reunited with their families.

Canada has almost 19,000 applications to process, and another 4,124 applicants that have been approved but have not yet arrived in Canada.

Quebec Immigration Minister Kathleen Weil noted that while the refugees' first year in Canada has been mostly spent picking up a new language and settling in, the challenge is now shifting to helping them join the labour market.

"You cannot compare the life in a peaceful country with life where there is war," said George Kas Barsoum. "This country is peaceful, this country is welcoming, it is very, very good."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### METRO TEMPERATURE CHECK

Winter is here, and if there's anything that unites us as Canadians, it's our shared joys and sorrows brought on by the cold, white, fluffy stuff. If you think you're having a bad winter right now, just remember this: You're not alone. Here is a round up of winter weather across other Metro cities on Sunday. Toronto, Calgary, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver are relishing their snow days, while Halifax and Ottawa are expecting snowfall on Monday. **METRO**

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# School won't teach immigrants' kids

## EDUCATION

**Children had to leave, despite being Canadian citizens**



**David P. Ball**  
Metro | Vancouver

"Where kids reach for the stars." That's the motto emblazoned above the entrance of North Otter Elementary School, surrounded by snow-glistening fields in Langley, B.C. east of Vancouver. But for a five- and seven-year-old living just minutes away, that motto appears not to apply. Despite the fact that both the five- and seven-year-old were born in Canada — and are therefore Canadian citizens — the local school district won't let them enrol because of their Mexican parents' paperwork troubles. The federal government offered the mother and children visitor visas so they could enrol



Two children were barred from enrolling in elementary school. DAVID P. BALL/METRO

by a Sept. 30 deadline, while their father continues his paperwork in Mexico to resume his 10-year employment at Hastings Racecourse. "I sent all the papers, I never lied. They asked me for my status, and I sent my visa," explained their mother, a 30-year-old optometry student from Mexico City, whom Metro agreed not identify because of their precarious immigration process. "They were really excited to be at school — the principal was so nice and took to kids to their classrooms. But after only a couple hours, they called and told us to pick them up: 'Your kids cannot be

here.'" It turned out they were neither registered for classes, nor covered by the school's insurance, a staffer explained. "They asked us, 'Mom, why are you picking us up early?'" she recalled, sobbing apologetically. According to a provincial Ministry of Education — which couldn't discuss "details" — "eligibility for free public education is based on residence rather than citizenship or immigration status," said a spokesman. The problem lies in the B.C. School Act's wording that what is required is parents be "ordinarily resident" of the province. But although individual school districts fall under provincial jurisdiction, each determines its own enrolment policies. Langley School District did not respond to Metro's request for comment. But the province needs to clarify and standardize its registration rules, argued advocates with Sanctuary Health. Alejandra Lopez Bravo said the issue is much larger than this one family in Langley.



## CAREER FAIR

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# Trump shuns briefings on intelligence

## POLITICS

### President-elect also said Russian hacking claims are 'ridiculous'

Donald Trump on Sunday called a recent CIA assessment of Russian hacking "ridiculous" and says he's not interested in getting daily intelligence briefings — an unprecedented public dismissal by a president-elect of the nation's massive and sophisticated intelligence apparatus.

Trump's remarks come as key congressional Republicans joined Democrats in demanding a bipartisan investigation into the Kremlin's activities and questioned consideration of Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson — who has close business ties with Moscow — as head of the State Department.

Asked whether he's rejecting valuable intelligence on Fox News Sunday, Trump was defiant.

"I get it when I need it," he said of the top-secret briefings sessions, adding that he's leaving it up to the briefers to decide when a development represents a "change" big enough to notify him.

"I'm, like, a smart person. I don't have to be told the same thing in the same words every single day for the next eight years," Trump said.

The CIA has concluded with

"high confidence" that Russia sought to influence the U.S. election on behalf of Trump. The finding alarmed lawmakers, including Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain who said Sunday he planned to put Sen. Lindsay Graham, a staunch Trump critic, in charge of investigating the claim.

McCain also has questions about Tillerson's business relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin, although it's not clear Tillerson will be nominated. Sunday afternoon, Tillerson had still not been formally offered the job, according to a person with knowledge of the process who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Exxon steadily expanded its Russian business on Tillerson's watch even as its rivals faced expropriation and regulatory obstacles. In 2013, Putin bestowed the Order of Friendship on Tillerson.

"Maybe those ties are strictly commercial and got to do with his business in the oil business. Fine," McCain told CBS "Face the Nation." And "we'll give him a fair hearing. But is it a matter of concern? Certainly it should be a matter of concern."

"Being a 'friend of Vladimir' is not an attribute I am hoping for from a #SecretaryOfState," tweeted Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, Trump's former campaign rival and a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



**ATTACKS A DAY OF MOURNING** People carry the coffins of bomb victims during a memorial on Sunday for police officers killed outside the Besiktas football club stadium Vodafone Arena in Istanbul, Turkey. Family members, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, ministers and colleagues attended the memorial as Turkey declared a national day of mourning after twin blasts on Saturday killed dozens of people and wounded many others near a soccer stadium. Turkish authorities have banned distribution of images relating to the Istanbul explosions within Turkey. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## IN BRIEF

### Italy's foreign minister tapped to be premier

Italian Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni was tapped Sunday to form a new government and end a political crisis so the country can tackle pressing problems. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Bill English chosen as New Zealand's PM

The conservative caucus in New Zealand has chosen Bill English to be the next prime minister. English emerged victorious following a meeting of the National Party caucus. He is to be officially sworn in on Monday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## EGYPT

### Cathedral bombing kills dozens

A bombing at a chapel adjacent to Egypt's main Coptic Christian cathedral killed 25 people and wounded another 49 during Sunday Mass, one of the deadliest attacks carried out against the religious minority in recent memory and a grim reminder of Egypt's difficult struggle to restore security and stability after nearly six years of turmoil.

The attack came two days after a bomb elsewhere in Cairo killed six policemen, an assault claimed by a shadowy group that authorities say is linked to the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood. That group — called "Hasm," or "Decisiveness" — distanced itself from the attack in a state-

ment issued Sunday night, saying it does not as a principle kill women, children, the elderly or worshippers.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Sunday's attack. However, Daesh targeted Christians in the past, including a New Year's Day bombing at a church in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria in 2011 that killed at least 21 people. More recently, churches and Christian property in southern Egypt were targeted in the aftermath of the military's July 2013 ouster of an Islamist president. Those were blamed on Brotherhood supporters and ultraorthodox Salafi Muslims.

Regardless of who is behind

the bombing, the attack was likely to deal a setback to Egypt's struggle to regain normalcy and revive its ailing economy. Moreover, the attacks this past week were almost certain to undermine the modest recovery made in recent months by the vital tourism sector.

Egyptian state TV and the Health Ministry put the casualty toll at 25 dead and 49 wounded.

The blast took place as a Sunday Mass in the chapel was about to end and coincided with a national holiday in Egypt marking the birth of Islam's Prophet Muhammad. Most of the victims are thought to be women and children. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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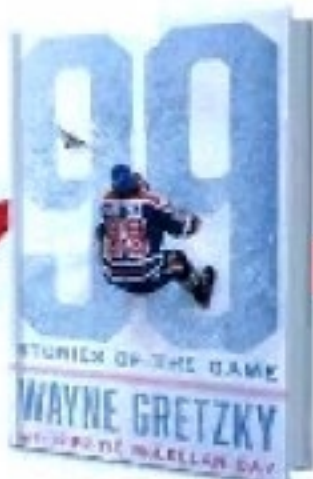
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# Another 4,000 flee fighting

SYRIA

## Rebels' hold over Aleppo continues to shrink

Hundreds of Syrians stood in long lines Sunday, some getting on government buses, to flee the shrinking rebel-held enclave of eastern Aleppo, as military troops and allied militias continued their push to regain full control of the opposition stronghold.

Syria's state news agency said at least 4,000 people fled the enclave Sunday. The state TV channel said more than 70,000 of eastern Aleppo's estimated 275,000 residents have fled recently — mostly to government-held western Aleppo districts.

Residents said government airstrikes hit the last remaining bridge that linked eastern and western Aleppo, a largely symbolic strike. They also reported that government and allied troops kept up their bombing of a handful of neighbourhoods, which have become the shelter for most of the civilians who



Syrian pro-government forces hold Syrian flags bearing the portrait of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad as they patrol Aleppo's Bab al-Nairab neighbourhood on December 10. GEORGE OURFALIAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

chose to remain.

"There is not a building that remains standing," said Mohammed Khandaqani, a medical administrator who remains in Aleppo, speaking of his neighbourhood, al-Maadi, near the old city. He said government troops

have advanced there, and others said most of the newly displaced residents left from that area. "This scorched earth policy is truly overwhelming."

State TV on Sunday showed hundreds of Syrian men gathering, apparently to leave eastern



**There is not a building that remains standing.**

Mohammed Khandaqani

Aleppo while some women were getting on the buses. The images from the exit routes, which have also been broadcast live by the Russian military, have been playing nearly every day since the ground offensive began dislodging opposition fighters bit by bit

from eastern Aleppo neighbourhood starting from the north.

The swift Russia-backed ground offensive, which began on Nov. 26, followed an intensive aerial bombing campaign that knocked out most of the medical facilities, targeted civil defence and municipal vehicles and blocked roads with rubble. The eastern Aleppo area has also been cut off from outside assistance since July by a government siege.

A state TV broadcaster said insurgents still control around 7 square kilometres (4 square miles) in the city's east, down from the original 45 square kilometres (17 square miles) they once held.

Rebels captured the eastern half of Aleppo, Syria's largest city and former commercial capital, in 2012. The government's recapture of the city would mark its greatest victory since the war began in 2011.

Brig. Gen. Zeid al-Saleh, the head of the security committee in Aleppo city, told state TV channel al-Ikhbariya that Syrian forces, "are working to settle the battle with (the opposition) soon."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



## Tara MacDonald

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### NIGERIAN CHURCH

## Collapse blamed on rushed construction

Mortuaries overflowed with bodies Sunday from a church collapse in southern Nigeria that killed at least 160 people, and worshippers said construction of the building had been rushed.

Hundreds had been inside the Reigners Bible Church International in the city of Uyo on Saturday for the consecration of founder Akan Weeks as its bishop when the metal girders fell and the corrugated iron roof caved in.

Screaming survivors streamed out amid cries from the injured inside.

"There were trapped bodies, parts of bodies, blood all over the place and people's handbags and shoes scattered," said computer analyst Ukeme Eyibio. Officials feared the death toll could rise.

Weeks and Akwa Ibom state

Gov. Udom Emmanuel were among the survivors.

Eyibio had parked his car outside the complex to make a phone call when he heard a deafening crash and saw that the church had disappeared.

He and three others dragged 10 injured people from an overflow area for worshippers just outside the collapsed church. They did not enter the main structure because a construction worker warned it was not safe.

The church had been still under construction and workers had been rushing to finish it in time for Saturday's ceremony, congregants said. The governor's spokesman, Ekerete Udoh, said the state government will investigate if any building standards were compromised.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



In this image made from video taken Dec. 10, 2016, people survey the scene after a church roof collapsed in Uyo, Nigeria.

UKEME EYIBIO VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### POLICE SHOOTINGS

## Jurors side with officers

Facing uphill battles to find jurors willing to convict police officers, prosecutors say they will try again to win guilty verdicts against white officers in the fatal shootings of black men.

A judge in the case against former University of Cincinnati police officer Ray Tensing set a Monday hearing on a timetable for a retrial. Jurors couldn't reach a verdict on murder and voluntary manslaughter charges against him in the death of Sam DuBose, and a mistrial was declared Nov. 12.

A South Carolina jury deadlocked Dec. 5 on the same charges against Michael Slager, a former North Charleston officer. The prosecutor pledged to try Slager again for the death of Walter Scott.

Legal experts say the mistrials show the difficulties prosecutors face in police cases. Many jurors are unwilling to second-guess officers' reactions when they claim to be in danger. "Jurors tend to give police officers the benefit of the doubt," said Mike Allen, a former prosecutor. "You can argue till the cows come home whether that's right or not."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# Winter retailers' joy on ice

## WEATHER

### Stores not yet celebrating the return of snow, cold temps

A year after warm weather curtailed their Christmas cheer, Canadian winter sport vehicle and apparel retailers aren't ready to pop the champagne despite a forecasted return to seasonally cold temperatures.

Following two challenging winters, retailers are cautious after enduring another late start to the season.

"We could have the mother of all winters from here to the finish line, which would be wonderful for everyone, but the reality is that this is the third winter that's deviating from the statistical norm of what winter is," said Jeff Crook, chief product officer for sporting goods for Mountain Equipment Co-op.

Besides weather, he said the winter retail season is experiencing a "revolution" amid economic uncertainty, new competitors and the growth of online sales.



Winter boots displayed at The Bay in Toronto, Ont. in November 2015. Following two challenging winters, retailers are cautious after enduring another late start to the season. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"We do think that there is a fundamental change in the game of winter sales in Canada," he added from Vancouver.

After "getting kicked in the teeth" over the last two seasons, Crook said MEC has curtailed purchases of discretionary fashion outerwear as it tries to preserve profits despite being

forced to offer deep discounts.

A specialist on how weather affects North American businesses says that some retailers were gun shy about buying too much stock a year after enduring the warmest and driest November and December in more than 55 years.

After seeing sales of boots

fall about 10 per cent last year, the president of Quebec-based chain Yellow Shoes has already seen a lift in sales of the product.

"For us it's been a much better year than it was last year," said Yellow Shoes president Douglas Avrith.

However, the entrepreneur

warned the 100-year-old retailer will be offering fewer big mark-downs after better controlling its inventory and purchasing more fashion boots rather than heavy felt-lined footwear.

Le Chateau says weather fluctuations aren't "a big deal" for the fashion business even though they affect sales of coats and boots.

The growth of online sales is diminishing the impact of extreme weather by allowing shoppers to buy even if snow and cold keeps them away from stores, said Franco Rocchi, senior vice president of sales and operations.

Ski-Doo maker Bombardier Recreational Products says its retail dealers are relieved that snow is allowing enthusiasts to hit the trails.

"I think it's too early to celebrate but they're in a good mood," CEO Jose Boisjoli said in an interview.

Without cold and snow, customers tend to delay purchases and even skip a year to upgrade their rides, Boisjoli said.

"When you have snow at this time in December it's like waking up the customer."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## KEYSTONE XL

### Pipeline news on the way: Trump

Donald Trump has suggested he'll move quickly on Keystone XL after taking office, with the incoming president expected to reverse his predecessor's ban on the Alberta-to-Texas oil pipeline.

The president-elect made the comments in a lengthy interview with Fox News on Sunday.

Trump brought up the pipeline himself during the interview with Fox News, while being pressed on whether his fossil-fuel-friendly administration would remain in the Paris climate agreement.

Trump said he would make a decision soon on Paris — then raised the pipeline.

"The Keystone pipeline, you're going to have a decision fairly quickly," Trump said.

"And you'll see that."

It's little surprise that Trump would favour the project — it was part of his platform. He's also reportedly considering naming Rex Tillerson, CEO of Exxon Mobil, as his secretary of state. The move would put him in charge of the file. THE CANADIAN PRESS

## ENERGY

### Trudeau reaches carbon deal with majority of provinces

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced Friday that his government and the majority of Canada's provinces had come to an agreement on a national carbon pricing plan.

Trudeau has been working on a national carbon pricing plan for months amid worries about the U.S. heading in the opposite direction and how that could put Canadian companies at an economic disadvantage. Earlier, outgoing U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden urged Canadian leaders to continue to treat efforts to combat climate change urgently despite the incoming administration of Donald Trump.

Trudeau called the framework agreement on a carbon tax historic. But Canada's 10 provincial leaders are not unanimous in agreeing to Trudeau's carbon tax.

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall has refused to agree to the tax; Manitoba's premier said he

hasn't signed on yet because it wants more money for health care; and British Columbia Premier Christy Clark balked at first before reaching a compromise.

"The new Trump administration, most assuredly, will not be implementing a carbon tax," Wall said.



**There are plenty of reasons to be hopeful.**

Joe Biden

"We compete with the Americans in our province for drilling rigs. Our farmers compete with their farmers. Competitiveness for Canadians matters especially at a time when our energy sector is reeling."

Biden told Trudeau and the premiers that whatever un-

certainty exists surrounding Trump's policies, he is confident America will continue on towards a low-carbon future.

"I understand that many of you are concerned about what the new administration will do," Biden said. "Whatever uncertainty exists around the near-term policy choices of the next president, I am absolutely confident the United States will continue making progress in its path to a low-carbon future."

"Regardless of whether the next administration is as aggressive as we have been, there's no way to turn back — I'm not suggesting they intend to — but there's no way to turn back this tide that has begun to roll."

"The question is time. Time is of the essence. There are plenty of reasons to be hopeful, but no reason to be anything other than feeling an overwhelming sense of urgency." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## BY THE NUMBERS NATIONAL PRICING PLAN

**\$50**

Prime Minister Trudeau hopes to impose a \$50/ton national carbon tax.

**2022**

The imposed carbon tax would come into effect by 2022.

**\$30**

As a compromise, B.C. would cap at \$30 in 2020 pending an expert review.

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## URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE



### THE QUESTION

## How does one account for income disparity among groups of friends?

Dear Ellen,  
How do I politely tell my friends I can't afford to hang out with them? At university, it wasn't a problem, but now I feel like they must have family money I never knew about or they're earning a ton more than me. But somehow they can afford expensive dinners out, and now they all want to go to Cuba for a long weekend. I just don't have that kind of money. How do I beg off without appearing rude or uninterested in my old gang?  
MM

Dear Ellen,  
Every time I go for lunch with my gal pals, there's a problem with the bill. There's always one person who insists we pay separately, and then calculates what everyone had down to the last penny. I say we should just take turns picking up the whole tab. Who's right?  
SC

Dear MM and SC,  
It's funny how people these days will reveal every detail of their physical health, relationship issues and sex lives while personal finances remain strictly off limits. I've been in MM's position — shocked at how rich some of my friends seemed compared to me. And horribly self-conscious about my own

**It's funny how people will reveal every detail of their physical health and sex lives while personal finances remain off limits.**

lack of funds (and expensive clothes, car, home, etc.). Then, one day, while they were urging me to come along to their next hiking trip in Europe, I suddenly found myself telling the truth instead of lying about work obligations: "That sounds like fun, but I can't afford it."

The world didn't end. They didn't seem to think less of me. The reaction was basically, "Oh, that sucks," and the conversation carried on. In subsequent gatherings, I detected a politeness on their part in not talking too much about the European expedition in case I felt excluded. But neither

did they make their trip a secret, which would have made me feel even more excluded. In short, they behaved with perfect manners, were sensitive to my situation, and ultimately treated the whole issue the way it should be treated between friends — as not a big deal.

With SC's restaurant-bill problem, I wonder if it's another case of economic disparity. The nitpicker who insists on forensic accounting at the end of the meal may have carefully ordered only a salad because she's on a budget and can't afford to split a bill that includes everyone else's sea bass and champagne. Or maybe she

really is a cheapskate with deep-seated neuroses about how money represents the love she never received as a child.

Either way, you as her friend should swallow your irritation and go along with it. And if you do insist on picking up the whole tab to avoid the nickel and diming, feel free. But remember it's your choice, and no one owes you anything next time you lunch with the ladies.

**Need advice?**  
**Email Ellen:**  
scene@metronews.ca



© Ani Castillo

## VICKY MOCHAMA

### Viola Desmond's face is small comfort for the economically deprived

The decision to put Viola Desmond on the \$10 bill is a landmark win for black people and communities of colour in Canada.

But there is no symbolic win powerful enough to justify how racism affected her life and robbed her of her many successes.

Despite being a businesswoman at the heart of Halifax's black entrepreneurial class, the trial against her ultimately broke her. She died in poverty.

It's in this way that racism robs families and communities for generations.

Racism is an economic interest that levies a fine on otherness and punishes those who will not accept the fine. Canada's government, lawmakers and leaders, have been the enforcers and beneficiaries.

Viola Desmond experienced this viscerally when she was arrested, jailed and fined for refusing to sit in the Rose Theatre's balcony, which was designated for its black patrons. Her failure, by way of the quotidian act of buying a movie ticket, to acknowledge the racial hierarchy required swift punishment.

Through the police and in the courts, the force of the state was brought in judgment of her blackness. She was fined \$26 for "defrauding" the province of its one-cent amusement tax. Six of those dollars were given to the theatre

manager. The oppressor was given a bounty for enforcing white supremacy. Inequality of choice was thus compounded.

Some say Desmond's place on the \$10 bill is, at worst, a revision of history, and, at best, an attempt to sweep the uglier parts of our history aside. It's a specious argument that suggests history is being taught via the medium of our plastic currency. (The symbols on our currency currently include an icebreaker, which replaced the Famous Five, who I would argue were far more groundbreaking than a boat.)

When it comes to money, the ongoing legacy of racism is to deprive communities of colour. According to research by economist Krishna Pendakur, a visible minority man born in Canada earns about 18 per cent less than his Canadian-born white male counterpart. Indigenous Canadians live in a poverty so vast and crushing that it has been called a human-rights crisis.

A 2011 report on Canada's Colour Coded Labour Market found that poverty rates are three times higher for racialized families. That report also highlights that in 2006, the year of the last longform census, racialized Canadians were earning 81.4 cents to every dollar that non-racialized Canadians made.

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## Knock their socks off



There's a meme of the Grinch as a kid frowning after getting socks for Christmas. That same Grinch as an adult is all smiles when he gets another set. It was likely a pair of Merino wool socks that changed his mind — a cultish following has developed for the super-soft footwear among normcore and athleisure devotees in recent years. Be warned: Merino wool socks that look cool while keeping your feet warm usually cost between \$25-35 per pair.

Here are a few of our top picks. **MELISSA DUNNE/FOR METRO**

### 1 Wigwam

Wigam Mills, Inc. is a family-run business that's been making socks since 1905 in Wisconsin. The 'Miley' sock is made of merino wool, stretch nylon, and spandex. This striped pair won't sing you bouncy songs à la its namesake, Miley Cyrus, but they will keep your tootsies looking sassy.

**\$18 (U.S.); wigwam.com.**

### 2 Icebreakers

Many of New Zealand's Merino wool products end up being sent to us shivering Canadians this time of year. Icebreaker socks are among those products. These pretty pink socks, made of Merino wool, nylon, and lycra, will keep your toes warm while ensuring that you look hawt.

**\$34.99; icebreaker.com**

### 3 Darn Tough

This is the perfect pair of socks for the patriot in your life. The O Canada sock is made of Merino wool, lycra, and nylon. Darn Tough has been making its socks in Vermont for almost four decades. This pair will serve any Canadian darn well, whether during a game of shinny, or at the pub after the game.

**\$33; sportinglife.ca**

### 4 Smartwool

Smartwool was started by two ski instructors in 1999. Since then, its socks have developed a devoted fan base. These smart, snowflake-adorned socks, made of a mix of Merino wool, nylon, and elastane, actually keep feet warm. Whether hitting the slopes, the sidewalk, or the subway, these socks are the gift that keeps on giving all winter long.

**\$29.99; sportchek.ca**

### 5 L.L. Bean

The receiver of these L.L. Bean socks will surely be head over heels for them. The socks are made in Maine specifically for skiing and snowboarding. This pair features a mix of PrimaLoft acrylic, Merino wool, nylon, polyester, and spandex, and they also come with the classic clothier's famous lifetime guarantee.

**\$24.95 (U.S.); llbean.com**

#### ADVICE

## When it comes to couples, there's a fairer way to split the bills

**Gail Vaz-Oxlade**  
For Metro Canada



Whether you're planning to live with a mate or officially tie the knot, it's a good idea to have a chat about how you'll manage your incomes as a couple.

While many people just split everything 50/50, I believe a proportionate splitting of joint expenses is fairer. Let's take the example of Chris and Alex. Alex makes \$65,000 a year, and Chris makes \$40,000 a year.

Splitting the bills 50/50 would mean that Chris ends up spend-

ing disproportionately more income on joint expenses, leaving little or nothing for individual goals such as savings or travel.

That's why a proportionate split is far fairer; it leaves money in each pocket for savings, managing individual expenses and having a life.

Use net numbers for this calculation. Since a higher earner will pay more in taxes, using gross numbers isn't fair. So start with how much you each bring home a month — the money that actually goes into the bank account. So that \$65,000 gross turns into \$52,000 after taxes,

or \$4,333 per month, and that \$40,000 gross turns into \$34,000 after taxes, or \$2,833 per month.

The first step is to add your net incomes together. Then divide each individual income by this figure and multiply by 100.

When Alex and Chris add their monthly incomes together they get \$4,333 + \$2,833 = \$7,166.

Time to divide Chris's income by that \$7,166 and then multiply by 100 to get a percentage:  $2,833 \div 7,166 \times 100 = 39.53$  per cent, which will round nicely to 40 per cent. Which means that Alex will pay 60 per cent of the expenses.



**Proportionate splitting of bills works out fairer.** iStock

Since Alex and Chris are paying \$2,700 a month in rent, they would each contribute the following to their joint account to cover their rent costs:

Alex:  $\$2,700 \times 60$  per cent =

\$1,620, or 37 per cent of net income.

Chris:  $\$2,700 \times 40$  per cent = \$1,080, or 38 per cent of net income.

See how nicely that works out?

This, of course, only applies to the bills you agree to split. If you've run up a whole bunch of debt that your mate doesn't want to have anything to do with, then you're on your own. The same goes for individual expenses.

It is important that partners also talk about what they'll do if there's a change in circumstances that affects the budget. One of you may be out

of work temporarily. How will you even up after? And if you decide to have a family and one of you stays home, how will you manage the bills and ensure the non-working partner has some money of their own?

These discussions may feel hard; people find it difficult to talk about money. But not talking will leave you both in the dark, a place where resentment thrives.

So communicate, don't disintegrate.

For more money advice, visit Gail's website at [gailvazoxlade.com](http://gailvazoxlade.com)



SAVING

## Winter booze — on a budget

For many, nothing rings in the festive season like a smooth single-malt whisky or a warming glass of your favourite red wine enjoyed in the company of good friends.

To keep your budget within reason, Adam McDowell, author of *Drinks: A User's Guide* recommends embracing the spirit of Scrooge when it comes to sleuthing out a great bargain.

"I'm the last person to say you need to spend a lot of money to get delicious wine, and if you're hosting you maybe want to be a little bit of a cheap-skate," he says.

Craft beer is another affordable option in which there's a diverse range of seasonal products, adds Crystal Luxmore, a certified beer sommelier. Here's some tips for buying in moderation.

### Best wines under \$15

If you're stocking up for a celebration, McDowell counsels steering clear of high-end wines.

"It's not like your friends are going to be able to appreciate the good stuff later into the night," he says. "So a party is a good occasion to find that \$10 or \$15 gem and get a whole bunch of that."



His favourite inexpensive go-tos come from Mediterranean countries like France, Greece and Italy. When it comes to reds some of McDowell's favourites are Gamay Noirs from France or virtually anything from Spain.

As for whites, he's a big fan of products that come from the Douro region of Portugal.

### Not your average beer run

For those who don't consider beer a particularly festive drink, Luxmore says there's a number of specialty brews available called "winter warmers" that might change your mind. Think spiced or fruity ales with Christmas flavours, she says.

For such specialty beers expect to pay up to \$10 or \$15

for a 500 ml or 750 ml bottle.

### Buying the bottom shelf

If you're planning a party the same rules apply to spirits as they do with wine, says McDowell. In other words, "don't spend more than you have to."

Whether you're buying vodka, bourbon or scotch, he says, "almost anything you can grab for \$25 is great stuff for mix."

Generally, he adds, any brand of gin or Canadian whisky will be of high quality regardless of the sticker price. When it comes to those types of spirits, he says, "the only thing we have in Canada are premium brands."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



## Opening up to a wide yoga yawn

### THE MOVES

### Learning to yawn better can help with breathing

**YuMee Chung**  
Torstar News Service

Long before you took your first yoga class, your body already knew something about co-ordinating breath and movement, thanks to the mechanism of yawning. We humans start practising this nascent form of yoga in utero, yet we are taught from an early age to suppress our yawns for fear of causing offence.

We explored the simple pleasures of yawning inside the Single Breath exhibit at the Ontario Science Centre's AstraZeneca Human Edge.

Try Full Body Yawns to ventilate your lungs, stretch your body, and restore balance to



**To maximize your yawn, like the lion in Frankfurt zoo (top), stand with relaxed posture and unburden your shoulders (above).**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE/MARCUS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

the autonomic nervous system.

1. Stand with relaxed posture — unlatch the belly, mellow out the pelvic floor, and unburden your shoulders.
2. Hang the lower jaw open and allow the breath to flow in and out through your mouth.
3. Pretend you've been cast

as the lead yawner in a movie and fake a few really big yawns: try curling your hands into fists, shrugging the shoulders, and tightening up all your muscles as you take a few staccato inhales through the mouth, then splay your fingers as you reach your arms out in any and all directions.

4. Have fun with the sounds of yawning whether they are high and squeaky or low and guttural. Let the sounds surprise and delight you.

5. Give yourself permission to yawn for five minutes without covering your mouth or feeling the least bit apologetic.

6. It is perfectly normal for your eyes and nose to get moist. Blow your nose as often as you need to.

YuMee Chung is a recovering lawyer who teaches yoga in Toronto. She is on the faculty of several yoga teacher training programs and leads international yoga retreats. Learn more about her at padmani.com.

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### + LIVING, BREATHING MYSTERY: WHY WE YAWN

**Modern science is still working to unravel the mystery behind the yawn. Here's what we do know:**

■ All vertebrates yawn. Fetuses yawn as many as six times an hour in their second and third trimesters.

■ Yawns are contagious. Dogs will yawn with their

human companions but psychopaths appear to lack the empathy to catch yawns from others.

■ The body movements that accompany yawns are called pandiculations. Pandiculations are different from stretching in that they involve a voluntary muscular contraction followed

by a slow lengthening and complete relaxation. Animals yawn and pandiculate a number of times upon waking.

■ Yawning causes our eyes to water as well as our noses to run. Think of yawning as nature's eye drops and neti pot.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



# Fight for the ages saves day

UFC 206

## Criticized card lit up by superb battle between Swanson, Choi



**Joe Callaghan**  
Metro | Toronto

Three years of waiting. And then in the space of three rounds of bewitching brutality, fighting fires were reignited.

Canada has recently questioned its place in the new UFC world. But as the foundations of Toronto's Air Canada Centre were rocked to their core by a baby-faced Korean and a venerable veteran late Saturday night, a strained relationship was strengthened again.

UFC 206 had been blighted by disputes and disruptions to the point that some had threatened to boycott the organization's first pay-per-view event in Toronto since 2013.

Yet every soul who made their way to the ACC was treated to a card that defied all expectations and a fight for the ages when for a full 15 minutes, featherweights Cub Swanson and Doo-Ho Choi engaged in a barely believable war of attrition.

There had been sparks earlier in the night, Lando Vannata's sumptuous spinning wheel kick KO of John Makdessi chief among them. The back-to-back submission victories for Canadian fighters Antoine Aubin-Mercier and Misha Cirkunov also raised temperatures.



Doo-Ho Choi and Kevin Luke "Cub" Swanson gave UFC 206 a much-needed jolt of magic on Saturday night in Toronto. PETER POWER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

But for all that, it was Swanson and Choi who delivered something else, something truly worth waiting for. The second round in particular served up five minutes of the kind of mind-bending mayhem that at this kind of peak, few sporting organizations can match. There wasn't a fan left in their seat at the end of the round as both fighters had to be helped to theirs.

Swanson, who has seen his share of fighting nights — good and bad, took immense pride in delivering such a soaring high when the expectations of so many in the house had been so low.

**\$1.8M**

The amount of gate revenue generated for UFC 206 in Toronto. Compare that to the \$18M generated by UFC 205 in New York.

"It definitely means a lot to me because there was a lot of people talking crap about this card," said Swanson afterwards, the decision having gone his way on all judges' scorecards. "It was the forgotten card. I was

disrespected by that. You know people were even talking about boycotting the card. I'm glad that people got their money's worth. I'm glad I had that performance here, around a great crowd."

Such was the calibre of the contest that the main and co-main event which followed could never live up to what had come before, even if Cowboy Cerrone did his best with a shuddering head kick KO of Matt Brown that again raised the rafters.

The headline act largely struggled to do likewise. Having missed weight and seen his

chance of an interim title go with it, Anthony Pettis's miserable week was compounded as he played right into the punishing hands of Max Holloway, crowned the interim featherweight champion after a third-round stoppage.

While the hordes drifted out into the early hours of Sunday morning satisfied with all this bang for their buck, the UFC's money men might not have been so buoyant. UFC 206's commercial, rather than critical, success is likely to decide how quickly the organization returns.

The new ownership regime have already stated aims at growing profits exponentially — in a hurry. With that in mind, the early numbers from Saturday framed the night a little differently.

The Air Canada Centre was officially sold out with a declared attendance of 18,057, yet the gate revenue was just US\$1.8M.

The organization's previous PPV night, UFC 205 in New York — admittedly a one-off mega-event — made a gate of almost \$18M from a crowd of 20,000. A better context may be that Toronto's most recent PPV to this — UFC 165 in 2013 — made a marginally bigger profit in spite of selling 3,000 less tickets.

Given the hectic nature of the fight game, quite a few bridges will be crossed before the UFC are back in town again. But on Saturday — thanks in huge part to the enthralling exploits of Swanson and Choi — many more bridges were repaired.

Toronto's fighting fires have been relit. It's up the UFC to now keep them burning.

NFL

## Murray, Titans edge the Broncos

DeMarco Murray ran for 92 yards and a touchdown, and the Tennessee Titans held on to beat the Denver Broncos 13-10 Sunday and keep a piece of first place in the AFC South.

With the win, the Titans (7-6) also climbed above .500 for the first time all season. The Titans came in with the NFL's third-best rushing offence and the AFC's top runner in Murray, and they ran right over a Denver defence that came in 28th in that category.

By halftime, the Titans ran 26 times for 138 yards — the second-most rushes by any team in the first half this season.

SUNDAY in Nashville



Tennessee then had to hold on as Trevor Siemian tried to rally Denver (8-5) after a sprained left foot that kept him out last week. He threw a 3-yard TD pass to Emmanuel Sanders with 9:58 left and drove the Broncos to first-and-goal at the Tennessee 7 before rookie Aaron Wallace sacked him. Coach Gary Kubiak settled for a 34-yard field goal by Brandon McManus on fourth-and-goal at the 16 with 4:28 left.

Siemian was driving the Broncos again when A.J. Derby fumbled after a catch. Safety Daimion Stafford recovered with 53 seconds left, and the Titans finished off their biggest win in years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Dylan Strome will return to Team Canada for the world juniors this holiday season. FRANCOIS LAPLANTE/FREESTYLEPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES

HOCKEY WORLD JRS.

## Strome keen to make amends

The five players returning from Canada's team at last year's world junior hockey championship feel they've got something to prove the second time around.

Dylan Strome, Mathew Barzal, Julien Gauthier, Mitchell Stephens and defenceman Thomas Chabot were on the Canadian squad that lost in the quarter-finals to host Finland and finished out of the medals a year ago. Now they want gold as the event shifts to Toronto and Montreal beginning Dec. 26.

"It's pretty easy to remember," Strome said Sunday as a four-day

team selection camp opened at the Centre d'Excellence Sports Rousseau. "It's not a good feeling.

"So many friends and people in your country watch the game, so you want to be the guy who wins the gold medal. Unfortunately we fell short, but we've got another chance this year."

The 10-team tournament for players under 20 will be played in Canada's two biggest cities for the second time in three years and, much like in 2015 when Canada won gold on home ice, they will have a relatively experienced team. Eighteen of the 31

players in camp are 19 years old and they will likely take most of the sports when the roster is trimmed to 22 at the end of camp.

The go-to players will be the returnees, led by Strome, the third overall pick in the 2015 NHL draft who started the season with the Arizona Coyotes before being returned to the Erie Otters of the Ontario Hockey League. What Strome learned in Finland was how quickly the tournament can end. "You've got to take every day like it's your last," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Titans' Demarco Murray had a big game. GETTY IMAGES



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Chelsea's Diego Costa scores past West Brom goalkeeper Ben Foster on Sunday in London. CLIVE ROSE/GETTY IMAGES

## Costa keeps Chelsea top

### PREMIER LEAGUE

### Striker makes West Brom pay for late error

Diego Costa struck late to give Chelsea a 1-0 victory over West Brom on Sunday and extend its winning run to nine Premier League games.

Chelsea struggled to break down its opponent for long periods but the determined Costa took advantage of a defensive error to produce a sublime winner 15 minutes from time.

Until that point West Brom had looked as though it would become the first visiting team to keep a clean sheet at Stamford Bridge this season, limiting the Blues to speculative long-range efforts for the most part.

"We faced a very tough, physical team, who are very difficult to break down," Chelsea manager Antonio Conte said. "I'm pleased because we showed great patience to find the right solution to win."

"Diego (Costa) is a great striker; in every game he shows great work rate with and without the

ball. He's playing very well — I think he's enjoying his football."

West Brom remains eighth in the Premier League, with the defeat ending a four-game unbeaten run for Tony Pulis' side.

"We were well set up without possession and we caused them some problems on the break, especially in the first half," Pulis said.

"I'm disappointed for the players because they've put so much effort into the game — to get beaten by that one mistake."

The home side dominated possession from start to finish but it was West Brom that came closest to breaking the deadlock in the first half.

Chris Brunt had Thibaut Courtois sprawling to his right as his effort from the edge of the box went narrowly wide in the 19th minute, before Salomon Rondon had the Chelsea keeper similarly concerned as he came equally close just six minutes later.

The victory ensured both Chelsea and Costa returned to the top — the club of the Premier League and its striker in the division's scoring charts, as he took his total to 12 goals for the campaign. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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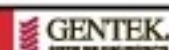
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## IN BRIEF

### Toronto FC loses MLS Cup to Sounders in penalty kicks

Seattle goalkeeper Stefan Frei came back to haunt his former team as the Sounders defeated Toronto 5-4 in a penalty shootout to win the MLS Cup and end a long, chilly Saturday night.

It was 0-0 after regulation, with Frei keeping Seattle in the game with a marvellous save in extra time.

Defender Roman Torres was the unlikely hero for the Sounders, beat Clint Irwin with his penalty shot to end the drama. THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Power-play goals help Ducks overpower Senators

Antoine Vermette and Corey Perry each had a goal and an assist and the Anaheim Ducks scored a season-high three power-play goals to beat the Ottawa Senators 5-1 on Sunday.

Joseph Cramarossa, Nick Ritchie and Sami Vatanen also scored, and John Gibson made 21 saves.

Ryan Dzingel scored for the Senators, who lost their second straight game in Southern California.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



MAKE IT TONIGHT

# Creamy Pea Tagliatelle



PHOTO: MAYA VISNVEI

**Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh**  
For Metro Canada

• 3 tsp chopped chives or flat-leaf parsley

**Directions**

**1.** Cook the tagliatelle according to package directions. In the last minute of the pasta cooking process, drop the peas into the water. Drain both the pasta and peas.

**2.** Meanwhile, in a large skillet, heat the oil and saute the onion and garlic for 5 minutes until fragrant. Stir in the creme fraiche. Add the pasta and peas, folding them with tongs to coat the pasta with the sauce. Sprinkle with chopped chives or flat-leaf parsley and serve.

**Ready in 20 minutes**

Prep time: 10 minutes  
Cook time: 20 minutes  
Serves 4

**Ingredients**

- 500 g tagliatelle pasta
- 2 cups frozen peas
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 cup creme fraiche

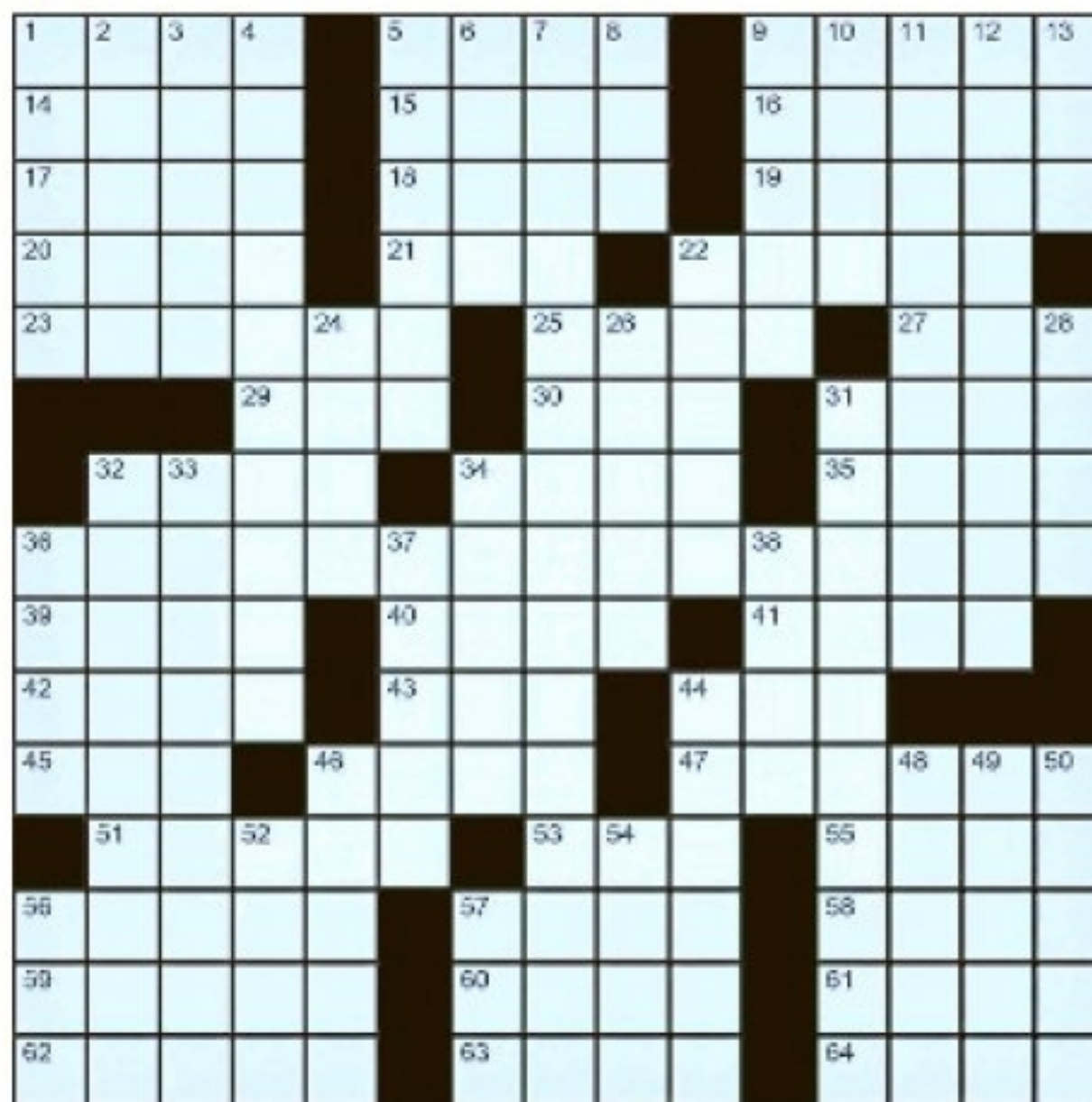
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## CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

**ACROSS**

- Mountain (Year-round recreation destination in Ontario)
- Unfreeze
- Big blooper
- Santa \_\_\_ (Capital and its American state, briefly)
- Courtney Love band
- Patrons' provisions-picking props
- Princess in "Star Wars" (1977)
- Lasso
- Bonus
- \_\_\_ (Play's opening)
- 'Pepper' ending (Pizza topping)
- Ancient language
- Police officer's interest: 2 wds.
- At hand
- Pose for a painting
- \_\_\_ Vegas
- Earth invaders, commonly
- Canadian actor Mr. Rogen
- Hideaway
- "Who Is Harry Kellerman and Why \_\_\_ Saying Those Terrible Things About Me?" (1971)
- Verifiable
- Home in downtown Toronto of The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada (Reserve regiment for which Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, is the Colonel-in-Chief): 3 wds.
- Real



- Identical
- Elm: French
- Bills in restaurants
- \_\_\_ pollution
- "Is there \_\_\_ left?"
- \_\_\_ clear
- Sommelier's serving
- Epicurean's re-

- fined asset
- Particular pink
- Drench
- Wild goat
- Hawaiian veranda
- Gateway
- \_\_\_ the wiser
- Skyline structures, shortly

- Rice-shaped pasta
- Best \_\_\_ (Greatest)
- Rain/snow mix
- "Renegade" rockers
- Paving stone

**DOWN**

- A Sharp's other name: letter + wd.
- Bloodsucker
- Amalgamate
- Web marketer's address groupings: 2 wds.
- Sofa blankets
- Blind Melon singer

- Shannon
- #1-Across in the Wintertime: 3 wds.
- Diminutive
- Makeup application mistake
- "America's \_\_\_ Top Model"
- Disease immunizer
- What a newly-moved-into home often needs
- "Invasion \_\_\_" (1985) starring Chuck Norris
- \_\_\_ printer
- 50+ org. in The States
- Mr. Hawke
- "Or so \_\_\_ say." (Apparently)
- Plots
- Telephone ringy-dingy that's not long distance: 2 wds.
- Hair dye shade: 2 wds.
- Jennifer \_\_\_ (Canadian actress of ABC sitcom "The Goldbergs")
- \_\_\_ mucil (Fiber supplement brand)
- "Garfield: \_\_\_ of Two Kitties" (2006)
- Famous painting, with Lisa
- About [abbr.]
- Pair of pants part
- Overhead
- Dogma
- Strain
- Fury
- Like sludge that's leaking out
- Kilos alternatives
- \_\_\_ and don'ts

## \* IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

**Aries** March 21 - April 20  
Be careful, because this is an accident-prone day due to the tension building up before tomorrow's Full Moon. Think twice before you speak or act.

**Taurus** April 21 - May 21  
Your focus is on money, cash flow and earnings, as well as major purchases today. You might do some shopping therapy because of tension before tomorrow's Full Moon. Caution.

**Gemini** May 22 - June 21  
Today the Moon is in your sign, and you feel the buildup before tomorrow's Full Moon in your sign. This means you have to be patient with partners and close friends.

**Cancer** June 22 - July 23  
Don't set high standards for yourself that are too tough to achieve. Go easy on yourself, because tomorrow is the Full Moon. You have enough to deal with.

**Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23  
You might feel a buildup of tension with a close friend, especially a female acquaintance. Or this could happen between you and a member of a group. Just be patient and diplomatic.

**Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23  
You feel the pressure of trying to keep everyone happy at home and at work building up within you. Of course, this is impossible. (However, you can't ignore home and family.)

**Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23  
This is a mildly accident-prone day because of the energy building up before tomorrow's Full Moon. Don't rush things. Do not be hasty. Stay mellow.

**Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22  
Disagreements about shared property, inheritances and such might arise now. If so, they will be settled about three days from now.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21  
Tomorrow, the only Full Moon opposite your sign all year will take place. This is why you feel tension with others today as this energy builds up.

**Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20  
Difficulties with co-workers might arise today, because everyone feels the energy of tomorrow's Full Moon building up within them.

**Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19  
Be patient with romantic partners today. Likewise, parents need to be patient with their kids. Everybody feels a buildup today before tomorrow's Full Moon.

**Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20  
Do not let the demands of family interfere too much with your job at this time, because your job is important. Tomorrow's Full Moon creates this tension.

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3				7				

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7	5	8	4	9	6	2	3	1
2	3	1	8	6	7	4	9	5
5	8	7	2	4	9	1	6	3
6	9	4	5	1	3	8	2	7
1	6	5	9	2	4	3	7	8
8	7	3	6	5	1	9	4	2
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